Nixon Improving, Gets Visit From Old Friend

By Stuart Auerbach 11-9-74
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LONG BEACH, Calif., Nov. 8 — Former President Nixon took another forward step today by getting out of intensive care, but an old friend, the first lady of the Philippines, said after a short visit that he looked "very weak," and "easily tired."

"I couldn't stay long because he was so easily tired," said Imelda Remualdez Marcos, wife of Philippine President Ferdinand E. Marcos, her voice catching, after a few minutes' visit with Mr. and Mrs. Nixon in his room at Long Beach Memorial Hospital.

She said she dropped in on the Nixons, who she described as "old friends of the Philippines and of the Marcoses," on he way to New York to inaugurate a Philippine center there.

Mr. Nixon's doctors, meanwhile, signaled his further improvement by decreasing the amount of nursing care he is getting. They took him out of sub-intensive care, where nurses watched him 24 hours a day, and said he is now in the normal "in-hospital recovery period" for a patient after surgery.

Mr. Nixon was operated on 10 days ago to prevent life-threatening blood clots from flowing to his lungs from his phlebitis-stricken left leg. The series of medical complications, including massive internal bleeding six hours after the operation that brought him to the brink of death, have hampered his recovery.

In today's medical bulletin, Dr. John C. Lungren, Mr. Nixon's personal physician, said that Xrays taken this morning showed an improvement of the pneumonia in Mr. Nixon's right lung. Lungren said the pneumonia was confined to a part of the lower lobe of the lung. He said antibiotic treatment will continue "for a few more days."

An encouraging sign that the pneumonia is getting better, he said, is that the former President's temperature which had been slightly above normal, normal, is now normal.

The pneumonia shows up on an Xray as an inactive area of the lung, a condition known as atelectasis. Specialists not connected with the case said that it is hard to tell the difference from Xrays between atelectasis and blood clots in the lung, the condition that the Oct. 29 operation was designed to prevent.

Mr. Nixon's other lung problem — a slight amount of fluid in his left lung, called an effusion, is also getting better, Lungren said.

In a press conference after her visit with the Nixons, Mrs. Marcos said the former President "was very interested in what was going on around the world. You could see there was great determination and great effort on his part."

She said she conveyed to him the "sentiments, best wishes and prayers of the people of the Phillippines" and told him how other Oriental nations, such as China, feel about him.

"History cannot take away from President Nixon the courageous steps of initiating a detente between the United States and the People's Republic of China, a nation that comprises about one-quarter of the world's population, and for that matter, also the Soviet Union."

She brought Mr. Nixon a huge arrangement of flowers with bird-of-paradise flowers as the centepiece.

"In the East," she said, "there is a saying: 'Love is the most potent of medicines.' "

Award to Malraux

Reuter

NEW DELHI, Nov. 8 — French author, intellectual and politician Andre Malraux has been chosen for the 1972 Jawaharlal Nehru Award for international understanding, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations announced today. The 1972 award is being made now because of administrative delays, a council official said.